District Rural Roads Plans to the State Governments in June, 2001. The details regarding expenditure to be incurred on the construction of Rural Roads in Rajasthan would become available after the completion of the exercise.

For the year 2001-02, a sum of Rs. 2500 crore has been earmarked for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Pending finalization of State-wise/UT-wise allocations, the State/UT Governments have been informed that, at this stage, the available funds may not exceed the last year's allocation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Autonomy to subsidiaries of CIL to fix prices of its products

1830. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow full autonomy to the seven subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd., for fixing prices of its products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received the outcome of inter-subsidiary competition to be followed by such autonomy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures suggested to overcome the problems of inter-subsidiary competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pricing of coking coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal was deregulated *w.e.f.* 22.3.1996. Subsequently the pricing of hard-coke, soft coke and 'D' grade of non-coking coal was deregulated in February, 1997. Pricing of coal has been fully deregulated after the Colliery Control Order, 2000 was notified with effect from 1st January, 2000. Since deregulation of pricing of coal, Coal India

Limited (CIL) has been notifying prices of all grades coal produced by its subsidiaries. The pricing proposals from the respective coal producing subsidiaries are first approved by their respective Boards of Directors and thereafter the proposals are finally approved by the CIL before CIL notifies the same. However, the prices of washed coal, coke, middling, rejects and slurry are fixed by the respective subsidiary companies.

(c) and (d) After deregulation of pricing, the prices of same grades of coal vary among various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. However, there is not much scope for inter-company competition despite the price differentials because the grades of coal consumed and the geographical locations of the market segment being served by various subsidiary companies of CIL follow, more and less, an established pattern and besides prices, the freight element has a major share in the overall cost incurred by a consumer. The inter-subsidiary price differentials in basic prices of coal along are not the determining factor for competitiveness.

(e) Does not arise in view of answer given to parts (c) and (d).

Establishment of coal washeries to provide best quality coal

†1831. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal washeries have been set up in Government sector to provide best quality coal in the country;

(b) if so, total number of coal washeries set up in the country and the number of coal washeries out of them set up in the Government sector alongwith the production capacities thereof; and

(c) the annual production by these Government coal washeries during the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 separately and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.